

ACTION

October 6, 1969

SECRET

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: Henry A. Kissinger (Signed) HK

SUBJECT: Press Interest in So-Called Green Beret Affair

Attached is a report from Dick Helms that both the New York Times and the Los Angeles Times are planning major investigative stories which will attempt to put together the events surrounding the disappearance of Chuyen and the Army's handling of the officers allegedly involved. The investigation will probably spill over into a broader study of how intelligence is organized in Vietnam and perhaps across the board.

A member of my staff has received indications that the New York Times is, indeed, planning a major story on the subject.

Dick suggests that we may wish to organize within the government a coordinated approach to this press investigation. I agree, and, with your approval, shall discuss this with ^{Haldeman} John Ehrlichman, Herb Klein, and Ron Zeigler. Herb and Ron could then coordinate with State, Defense and CIA.

NSS, ARMY reviews
completed.

Approve BN 10-8-69

Disapprove _____

MORI C03358447

HAK:TL:dn:10/3/69

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20505

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

3 October 1969

MEMORANDUM FOR: Dr. Henry A. Kissinger
Assistant to the President
for National Security Affairs

SUBJECT: Continuing Press Interest in so-called
Green Beret Affair

1. I have heard in the last couple of days, I do not know how reliably, that both THE NEW YORK TIMES and THE LOS ANGELES TIMES are planning major investigative stories which will attempt to put together the events surrounding the disappearance of Chuyen and the Army's handling of the officers allegedly involved. This investigative effort will probably spill over into an examination of how intelligence is organized in Vietnam and perhaps across the board. It would involve coordinating authority, command relationships, the division between strategic and tactical collection, and so forth.

2. I bring this to your attention, because you may well desire to organize within the Government a coordinated approach to this press investigation. I am the first to recognize that it is almost impossible to be very successful at such an approach. Witness the book written by two LOS ANGELES TIMES reporters on alleged North Vietnamese peace feelers. They were even successful in securing the State Department code names.

3. The foregoing is forwarded in the event that this matter has not yet been brought to your attention.

Rich

Richard Helms
Director

cc: The Honorable Melvin R. Laird,
Secretary of Defense

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